GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3130
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
AMENDMENT IN TOBACCO BOARD ACT, 1975
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 to empower the Tobacco Board to regulate production of tobacco;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced ; and

(c) the other steps proposed to help the tobacco farmers ?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

a) Yes, Sir.
b) The Bill will be introduced only after the proposed amendments are finalised after inter-ministerial consultations and approval.
c) Steps proposed to help the tobacco farmers include :-

a) Assisting farmers in obtaining crop loans and short term loans from the banks.
b) Advising the banks not to recover past crop loan advances from the tobacco farmers` sales of the first two lots put for sale at the auctions.
c) Extending help in insuring tobacco curing barns with the Insurance Companies operating in tobacco areas.
d) Arranging supply of inputs like genuine and approved seeds, fertilisers, irrigation equipment, pesticides, suckericides, coal, briquettes, tarpaulins, and spraying equipment to tobacco farmers.